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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 615

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Kenneth L. Vander Sluis of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Kenneth L. Vander Sluis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vander Sluis was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 1925, Kenneth L. Vander Sluis was born in Holland, Michigan, to loving parents Leonard and Jennie Vander Sluis; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and proficient scholar, Mr. Vander Sluis earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics and Mathematics from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1947; and

WHEREAS, his intense ambition to learn led Mr. Vander Sluis to continue his education at Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Physics in 1950 and a Doctorate in Physics in 1952; and

WHEREAS, for 38 years, Kenneth Vander Sluis served with acumen and alacrity as a physicist for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure, Mr. Vander Sluis initiated the first laser development program at ORNL and contributed significantly to the development of laser diagnostics for fusion energy research; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected expert in this field, Kenneth Vander Sluis authored over 100 papers on the intricacies of optics, lasers and fusion diagnostics; and

WHEREAS, an integral part of the Oak Ridge Community, Mr. Vander Sluis diligently served as President of the Atomic City Aquatic Club and as a Member of the Southeastern Swimming Officials Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a National Championship Swimming Official and Referee for the Oak Ridge High School swim meets; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vander Sluis was honored for his outstanding service in 1991, when he was inducted into the Tennessee Swimming Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the Kern Memorial Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as the fifth and sixth grade Sunday School Teacher and Church Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vander Sluis was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Jennie Vander Sluis, and his brother, Jay Vander Sluis; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Joan Harvie Vander Sluis, for 49 years and treasured the many evenings they spent together dancing; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Vander Sluis was also the proud and devoted parent of three children; during their formative years, he was always in attendance to offer them encouragement in their activities and performances including their numerous swim meets; and

WHEREAS, he will be greatly missed by his daughter, Lisa Whitney and her husband, David; his son, Stephen Vander Sluis, and his son, David Vander Sluis and wife, Kristin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vander Sluis was the loving grandfather of Brian Whitney, Jason Whitney, Melissa Vander Sluis, Alex Vander Sluis and Abbey Vander Sluis; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Vander Sluis will also be fondly remembered by his brother, Ade Vander Sluis and his wife, Gen; his sister, Marie Johnson and her husband, Paul; and his sister-in-law, Laurie Vander Sluis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vander Sluis leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Kenneth L. Vander Sluis, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction as a scientist and as a citizen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kenneth Vander Sluis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.